Claims

What is claimed is:

     1.   A method of attacking a screening algorithm, the method comprising the steps of:

          marking content to be downloaded;

          inserting at least one section of legitimate content into the marked content; and

          subjecting the marked content, having the at least one section of legitimate content inserted therein, to a screening algorithm.

     2.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the screening algorithm is a Secure Digital Music Initiative screening algorithm.

     3.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the screening algorithm relies on a sampling of data contained within the marked content.

     4.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the marked content is downloaded from the Internet.

     5.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of writing the downloaded content to a memory device.

     6.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of restoring the integrity of the marked content by removing the legitimate content inserted into the marked content.

7.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the screening process includes the step of determining a number of segments of a predetermined duration of time which are included within the marked content having the at least one section of legitimate content inserted therein.

8.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 7 wherein the screening process further includes the steps of selecting at least two segments within the marked content; screening the at least two segments to determine whether the at least two segments verify correctly through the screening algorithm; and downloading the marked content when it is determined that the at least two segments verify correctly through the screening algorithm.

9.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 7 wherein the predetermined duration of time is fifteen seconds.

10.   The method of attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one section of legitimate content inserted into the marked content is a section of silence.

11.   An apparatus for attacking a screening algorithm comprising:
        a processor device for marking content to be downloaded and for inserting at least one section of legitimate content into the marked content, wherein the marked content having at least one section of legitimate content therein is subjected to a screening algorithm.

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12. The apparatus for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a memory device associated with the processor device storing the content when the content passes through the screening algorithm.

13. The apparatus for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 11, wherein the screening algorithm relies on a sampling of data contained within the marked content.

14. An article of manufacture for attacking a screening algorithm, the article comprising a machine readable medium containing one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of:

marking content to be downloaded;

inserting at least one section of legitimate content into the marked content; and

subjecting the marked content, having the at least one section of legitimate content inserted therein, to a screening algorithm.

15. The article of manufacture for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 wherein the screening algorithm is a Secure Digital Music Initiative screening algorithm.

16. The article of manufacture for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 wherein the screening algorithm relies on a sampling of data contained within the marked content.

17. The article of manufacture for attacking a screening

algorithm as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of writing the downloaded content to a memory device.

18. The article of manufacture for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 further comprising the step of restoring the integrity of the marked content by removing the legitimate content inserted into the marked content.

19. The article of manufacture for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 14 wherein the screening process includes the step of determining a number of segments of a predetermined duration of time which are included within the marked content having the at least one section of legitimate content inserted therein.

20. The article of manufacture for attacking a screening algorithm as recited in claim 19 wherein the screening process further includes the steps of selecting at least two segments within the marked content; screening the at least two segments to determine whether the at least two segments verify correctly through the screening algorithm; and downloading the marked content when it is determined that the at least two segments verify correctly through the screening algorithm.